

Blues save themselves thanks to late goal

WITH other matters clearly on their minds, Wycombe Wanderers scrambled to a draw in Tuesday night's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup second round tie with a goal three minutes from the end of extra-time.

Steve Long scored his second goal of the match to prevent an off-key Wanderers from losing their unbeaten home record, which now stretches back 14 matches.

In stamina sapping conditions, Wycombe mercifully came through the match without any injury worries, thus leaving Mike Keen free to name full strength side against Bournemouth tomorrow (Saturday).

The forthcoming FA Cup tie clearly dominated the Wycombe thoughts. Manager Mike Keen, not wanting to risk key players, rested both Bob Dell and striker Terry Glynn, and brought in winger Ken Wilson and the perennial substitute Gary Toll.

Goal from corner

Blues could not have made a better start with a goal after four minutes. Following recent criticism of their corner taking, they have been rehearsing some set moves and it paid immediate dividends.

Wilson, a talented dead ball kicker, sent across a near post corner. Steve Hardwick nodded on and Long headed past goalkeeper Keith Baker from close range.

The Blues really should have been two or three goals clear by half-time as the talented Aylesbury United side

Wycombe 2, Aylesbury 2 (a.e.t.)

Report by MICHAEL KNOX

were completely outclassed. The home side forced nine more corners in the first half but none of them bore fruit.

Toll, Long and Tony Price could have increased Wycombe's advantage and will be hoping for a change of shooting luck tomorrow.

Aylesbury, who only just failed to reach the FA Cup first round themselves after a three match marathon with Barnet, have the reputation of being a second half side and they proved it once again on Tuesday night, as Wycombe faded badly.

The first half had been so easy for the Wanderers that they took it easy thereafter and paid the penalty, allowing their opponents back into the match.

The equaliser came in the 65th minute, when full back Peter Mead beat the off-side trap to run on to a through pass from Dave Jones.

Rebound

Mead raced clear of the defence and shot for goal. Gary Lester got a hand to the ball and deflected it on to the right post. Mead, following up put home the rebound.

With Dave O'Reilly becoming increasingly more dominant, Aylesbury went all out for the winner in ordinary time, but Wycombe held them at bay.

The teams appeared to be going through the motions in extra time, but suddenly out of the blue the game sprung to life and once again O'Reilly at the centre of it.

Following a dangerous run into the penalty area he was brought down with just six minutes left. Jones struck the penalty perfectly into the left hand corner of the net.

Sensing their home record was in danger, Wanderers raised the tempo and equalised three minutes later. A cross cum-shot from Mick Holifield fell conveniently to Long who drove the ball home.

A report on this match would not be complete without a comment about referee Mr Chaffer. The match was played in a friendly, competitive spirit but Mr Chaffer managed to book four players in totally inconsistent display.

Three Wycombe players — Birdseye, Wilson and Jacobs were booked along with Aylesbury's Gary Harthill — and the decisions were harsh to say the least. Mr Chaffer's distance away from the play could not have helped him when making decisions!

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, A. Price, G. Toll, J. Jacobs, S. Long, K. Wilson (Sub: P. West 90 mins.), M. Holifield. Sub: J. Richardson (not used).

AYLESBURY: K. Baker; K. Tilley, P. Mead, C. Nash, L. Markham, D. Jones, D. O'Reilly, J. Bailey, A. Jeffries, W. Holmes, G. Harthill. (Sub: D. Parratt 105 mins), Sub: C. Martin (not used).

Referee: R. E. Chaffer (Windsor).

Half-time 1-0. Full-time 2-2. Scorers — Wycombe: Long 2 (4 mins., 117); Aylesbury — Mead (65), Jones (pen 114).

Attendance 850.